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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Metro Rideshare Challenges Angelinos to Beat High Gas Prices,
Ease Traffic Congestion, Air Pollution**

- Try it during Rideshare Week, Oct. 3-7

During Rideshare Week (Oct. 3-7) Metro is challenging commuters and others to share a ride and save money on gas while easing traffic and air pollution. Just carpooling or taking public transit once a week will save the average commuter 125 gallons of gas a year.

Besides an expanding network of public transit service, Metro offers an array of other rideshare programs including a service that matches commuters with carpool partners and vanpools. Incentives such as Starbucks gift cards are offered for trying these rideshare options. (Restrictions apply.)

Metro also offers special pass programs for employers and institutions such as colleges and universities. For information, call 1-(800)-COMMUTE (option # 3) or visit CommuteSmart.info for details on carpools and public transit options available throughout Southern California.

Southland commuters are urged to participate in the radio campaign "Pick a Day, Any Day" and join a carpool, or vanpool, or take the bus or train, walk, ride a bicycle or telecommute.

"There has never been a better time than now to start sharing the ride!" said David Sutton, Director of Metro Commute Services. "In the wake of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, President Bush is urging us to conserve energy by carpooling or taking transit whenever possible. Let's share the ride and show the nation that Southern Californians are serious about helping out!"

With Gulf states' fuel production crippled by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, President George W. Bush urged Americans to carpool and use transit whenever possible.

Participation in Metro Rideshare programs grows every year. More than 1,000 worksites with 250 or more employees participate in Metro Commute Service programs, representing a 68 percent increase within the last three years. An additional 1,200 businesses with less than 250 employees also participate in these programs.

Metro's Rideshare programs are not limited to employers. Metro and UCLA will announce the debut of the UCLA Go! Metro Pass program for UCLA students and employees during the school's Transportation Fair Thursday, Oct. 6. The new Go Metro Pass will give UCLA students the convenience of an unlimited Metro Bus and Metro Rail pass at significantly reduced fares.

UCLA is subsidizing half off the cost of this program to make it very affordable.

Metro School Pool is a service offering free, voluntary and confidential matching service to parents interested in organizing school carpools. The program is open to students in all participating public and private elementary, middle and high schools in Los Angeles County. Parents share the task of driving students to and from school.

Details on all these programs are available by calling 1-(800)-COMMUTE (option # 3) and also by visiting Metro's website at Metro.net, which offers an interactive trip planner for those opting to share a ride by using the Metro Bus and Metro Rail system.

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